

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 37-45 are active in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

The allowability of claim 36 has been noted. The previous claims have been revised and presented as new claims in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention and to feature important aspects of the description.

The sole issue raised in the outstanding Official Action is the patentability of claims 28-35, the examiner rejecting these claims as being obvious and unpatentable over the Frick et al article. To the extent that the examiner's concerns may extend to the new claims presented above, the rejection is respectfully traversed. Of course applicants are well aware of the Frick et al article (as well as many others) which is identified and discussed on page 8 of the description and in more detail beginning at page 13, line 11. The cited reference of Frick et al discloses a process which differs from the claimed one in that:

- NaCl is not used;
- the claimed aspartic acid and HCl concentrations are not disclosed;
- precipitation of the end product by cooling the reaction mixture is not mentioned.

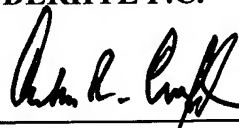
Applicants submit that their claims as above presented define subject matter that is patentable over the disclosures of the Frick et al paper for the above reasons as well as the thorough discussion provided in the description of the invention.

Reconsideration and favorable action are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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